

GOOD SHORT STORIES

The Bright Side.

"What an optimist Blinksley is."
"Yes. It's pretty hard to discourage him."

"When he fell and broke his leg last week he lay there and smiled while they were bringing the ambulance. Finally some one asked him if it didn't hurt. 'Oh, yes,' he said. 'But I can't help being tickled because it's the left one. I have a bad corn on the little toe of that foot and it'll have a chance to go away while I'm laid up.'"—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Gentle Hint.

The head of the house had already played the genial and kindly host for two weeks beyond the time of the invitation sent to the third cousins once removed who were his guests.

"I can't stand this much longer," he said behind closed doors to his wife.

"But what can be done? They are under our roof—"

"That's all right. I'll give them a little hint, very gently."

"I haven't much confidence in your little hints. Hadn't you better leave the matter to me?"

"Why should I leave the matter to you? I guess I can manage a little thing like that."

"Then suppose neither of us does anything. They have seen almost everything in town. They must be thinking of going home pretty soon."

"Now, don't you worry. They'll never guess what I'm after. There won't be occasion for the least particle of offense."

"What a beautiful day," the third cousin once removed greeted him at the breakfast the next morning.

"Yes," he responded; "a beautiful day for cousins to go home."—New York Sun.

The Wrong Guess.

"Now, I rather pride myself on my ability to read character," said the man who was given to buying detective tales in the hearing of a Kansas City

Star reporter, "and yet why should I? It is really a very simple thing—requires nothing but close observation. For instance, it is very easy to tell a man's occupation. His facial expression, his actions, even his dress are stamped by his daily work. You see that man sitting opposite us? Well, I am just as sure as though he had told me that he is a barber."

"You are mistaken," replied his friend. "That man is a butcher."

"Impossible," exclaimed the amateur detective. "You never saw a butcher with slim, white hands like his."

"Perhaps not," admitted the other, "but he is a butcher just the same."

"How do you know he is?"

"How do I know? Why, the scoundrel shaved me once."

A New Author.

The assumption of knowledge one does not really possess sometimes gets a person into an embarrassing predicament, says the Chicago Chronicle. A well-known professional man who spends his life entirely immersed in books has a wife who never reads anything more ambitious than a fashion column, but she likes occasionally to pretend an interest in her husband's hobby, and so from time to time she goes to the library and takes down a book just for the sake of appearances.

"I chose a book this morning," she remarked the other day to her husband, with a bright smile, "by an author named Volix. Is he considered a good writer?"

"Volix!" said the good man in a puzzled tone; and, then, not liking to confess himself ignorant of one of the books in his own library, he added,

"Yes, my dear, a writer of very considerable power, who possesses a remarkable insight into his subject."

But when she had completed her elaborate toilet and had gone off to her garden party he sneaked around to her bedroom to discover the book of the author of whom he had never heard. It turned out to be a volume of Browning's poetry which happened to have been bound with no name on the back, where it merely bore the legend Vol. IX.

Why He Opposed War.

At the beginning of our war with Spain a teacher of a primary class told some of her boys about the war and asked all who favored it to hold up their hands. Up went every hand

but Jack's, a boy of eight.

"Why, Jack, why are you opposed to the war?" asked the teacher, and Jack's surprising answer was:

"Cause, Miss Sophie, war makes history, and there's more o' that now 'an I can ever learn."—Exchange.

His Regular Formula.

The reader for the publishing house was doing a little marketing, and the grocer had handed him in change a suspicious-looking dollar bill.

He looked at it absent-mindedly, and handed it back.

"I find myself unable to use this," he said, "and herewith return it. You are not to understand, however, that it is declined on account of a lack of merit, but because for my particular purpose it is unavailable."—Chicago Tribune.

Discriminating Against Americans.

The American citizen is required to pay \$3.23 for one kind of harness snaps, \$2.24 for one and \$1.37 for another kind.

These same harness snaps are sold by the American manufacturer to the foreigner for \$2.40, \$1.68 and \$1, respectively.

Here is a difference of 35, 33 and 37 per cent in favor of the foreigner.

This imposition upon the home consumer is made possible by a trust-breeding tariff, maintained by the republican party, whose campaign funds are derived from the trusts.

Why should any American citizen, other than a trust magnate or a republican office holder, vote with a party that is not only responsible for this imposition, but promises to maintain the policy that will perpetuate impositions of this character?

Similar discrimination is made in regard to many articles of commerce, and will continue to be made so long as the people continue to vote for the trust candidates to make and administer the laws of this country. Why shouldn't the people cease voting for the trusts and do a little voting for themselves?—Joplin Globe.

Ananias Lyman.

"Talk about names!" writes a former Washington woman, who is now living down in Virginia. "I've come across the best yet, and it's true. A colored girl came to me the other day to ask for work. I told her I should need her in a week or so, and asked her where I should send for her. She told me where she was living. 'I'm staying,' said she, 'with my uncle. His name is Mr. Ananias Lyman.'"—Washington Post.

Poems You Should Remember

Break, Break, Break.

Break, break, break,
On thy cold, gray stones, O Sea!
And I wish that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

O well for the fisherman's boy,
That he shouts with his sister at play!
O well for the sailor lad,
That he sings in his boat on the bay!

And the stately ships go on
To the haven under the hill;
But O for the touch of a vanish'd
hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!

Break, break, break,
At the foot of the crags, O Sea!
But the tender grace of day that is dead
Will never come back to me.
—Alfred Tennyson.

The Lips and the Heart.

One day between the Lip and the Heart
A wordless strife arose,
Which was expertest in the art
His purpose to disclose.

The Lip called forth the vassal Tongue
And made him vouch—a lie!
The slave his servile anthem sung,
And braved the listening sky.

The Heart to speak in vain essayed,
Nor could his purpose reach—
His will nor voice nor tongue obeyed,
His silence was his speech.

Mark thou their difference, child of earth!
While each performs his part,
Not all the lip can speak is worth
The silence of the heart.
—John Quincy Adams.

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